



Smithsonian
*Donald W. Reynolds Center for
American Art and Portraiture*
National Portrait Gallery

Office of the Director

January 12, 2009

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Sanders:

Thank you for your letter of January 7, 2009, regarding the label which accompanies the National Portrait Gallery's recently acquired portrait of President George W. Bush.

Our label was not intended to imply that there was a causal connection between the attacks that occurred on 9/11 and the subsequent U.S. invasion of Iraq. Our intention was to remind viewers of the portrait that the listed events were defining episodes in the Bush presidency, within the limited space of an object label. I appreciate your concern, however, about the words "led to." We will revise the label and delete the words "led to." I would welcome the opportunity to escort you on a personal tour of the National Portrait Gallery, and will call your office in hopes that we can arrange that.

Thank you for your interest in the Smithsonian Institution.

Sincerely,

Martin E. Sullivan

Director

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION THE NATIONAL MUSEUM

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